

The FLYER

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Understaffing continues for SU counseling center



SU has yet to fill two Counseling Center positions vacated more than a month ago by resignations, significantly handicapping the facility's already limited resources. Featured image courtesy of Relate Foundation.

By Jakob Todd / News Editor

Still without new hires to backfill past resignations, the Salisbury University Counseling Center's limited resources are only treating students facing emergencies, referring others to outside mental health services.

The center's Director Lilian Odera and Counselor Sabrina Sahle each resigned from their respective positions at the facility in February, citing a lack of support and necessary resources to adequately perform their responsibilities.

The moves left the center with just two full-time

counselors as Assistant Director Nikki Dyer assumed the role of acting director. The two counselors are now tasked with accommodating a student population of 8,124 individuals, based on a Fall 2020 Semester campus census. This student to full-time counselor ratio of over 4,000 - 1 for SU is a stark contrast to the national average of 1,600 - 1 for four-year institutions, according to the National Survey of College Counseling Centers.

Dyer said changes to the center's operations

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ABOUT

The Flyer is Salisbury University's student newspaper-composed by students for students. The organization was established in 1973 to keep to SU community informed and entertained. Issues are published monthly throughout the regular school year and prints are printed by Delaware Printing Company of Dover, DE. A total of 800 copies are distributed on campus per circulation. The Flyer strives for accuracy and corrects its errors immediately. If you believe a factual error has been printed, feel free to contact the staff. Thank you.

SU hosts vaccination clinics for campus community

By Jakob Todd / News Editor

Salisbury University has made a recent push to vaccinate its campus population by hosting three on-campus SU-exclusive vaccination clinics through the first two weeks of April 2021.

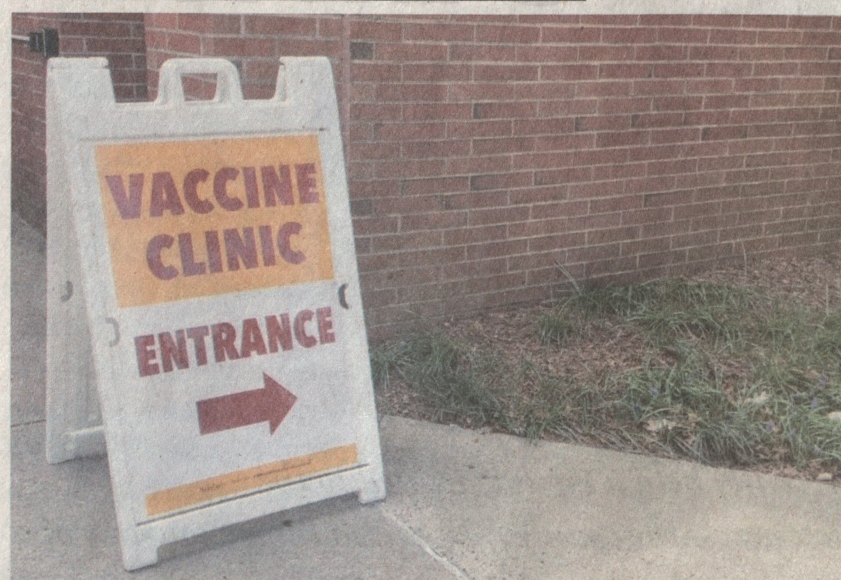
All SU students, faculty and staff are now eligible to receive the vaccine and are permitted to participate in the clinics if in compliance with the university's weekly COVID-19 testing protocols, per the email. Out-of-state students are also allowed to participate.

SU scheduled two more vaccination clinics after administering more than 400 doses of the vaccine during the university's initial vaccination site, which debuted April 6 in Maggs Physical Activities Center.

The two additional clinics were also held in the same location and hosted by the Wicomico County Health Department on April 12 and 13.

Moderna vaccines were distributed at the clinics, with follow-up sites scheduled 28 days following the initial-dosage clinics to administer second doses, said Olivia Butler, the communicable disease program manager at the Wicomico County Health Department.

The sites followed the state's expeditious run through its vaccination distribution plan, as Gov. Larry Hogan announced Maryland moved into the third and final phase of the plan on April 6. All Marylanders at least 16 years old are now eligible to receive the vaccine.



Three recent COVID-19 vaccination clinics have been held on SU's campus in an effort to protect campus community members from the effects of the virus. (Featured image courtesy of Jakob Todd.)

The move to Phase 3 arrived three weeks ahead of its originally targeted date of April 27.

All campus community members who were unable to attend the on-campus clinics may register for vaccination appointments at either of the state's two current mass vaccination sites, located at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center and the former Tuesday Morning store in the Centre at Salisbury, respectively.

While a vaccination requirement has not been implemented for the campus community, SU President Charles Wight has con-

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were unavoidable due to a combination of the resignations and an increased demand for the center's services, eventually becoming a challenge of how to "be the most accessible to the most people that we could" with limited staffing.

The center has collected data indicating a recent gradual increase in contacts from students, raising at least 125% since 2007, and Dyer said she expects the trend to only continue to mount despite the facility's limited resources.

College students nationwide are expected to increase the demand for mental health services in Fall 2021 as universities plan for greater in-person operations and combat the lasting effects of the pandemic, according to the Center for Collegiate Mental Health, a research group made up of college counseling centers.

More than half of the nearly 50,000 students surveyed nationally who sought mental health services during the pandemic reported COVID-19 negatively impacted their mental health, motivation and feelings of isolation and loneliness. One-third cited pandemic-related factors as cause for seeking mental health services.

"It will be essential for colleges and universities to be attentive, prepared, resourced and creative to address the ongoing and future challenges encountered by students due to the pandemic, especially as they re-integrate to pre-COVID-19 student life," the researchers concluded.

Yet, the center's staff has only dwindled in recent months, not risen with the demand and has required the facility to delegate the services it was intended to provide.

"I really don't know how [SU] is getting away with this," said Carly Nascimbeni, founder of the Honors College's Mental Health Committee.

Nascimbeni created the new coalition after discovering the center's understaffing crisis to provide supplemental mental health services for students, and she believes hiring more counselors is the only way to restore the facility's effectiveness.

Dyer said the center was forced to begin referring students to outside services so the limited staff could still assist students in emergency situations within reasonable timeframes, arising as the only way to preserve its essential functions.

"We are avoiding what we knew we could not [allow to] happen: having students with urgent needs or critical safety issues waiting for too long," Dyer said. "We are making [these changes] out of necessity."

Vice President of Student Affairs Dane Foust said search processes are underway to fill the vacant director position as well as two full-time counselor positions. One of the counselors would serve as a multicultural specialist, while the other would act as a group specialist to backfill the role originally vacated by Sahle. Those search processes have yet to produce successful hires as multiple candidates have only declined the counselor positions thus far, Foust said. SU administration is investigating the potential causes, such as cost of living and salary requirements.

While those hires would double the center's current total of full-time counselors to four, the facility would still remain below the average student to full-time counselor ratio nationally. Nascimbeni called on university administrators to overhaul SU's current hiring practices to alleviate the struggles faced during several recent search processes conducted for Counseling Center positions.

"It's an administrative problem," Nascimbeni said. "SU needs to step up and hire more people so the Counseling Center can offer services in-house."

Nascimbeni urged for creative solutions to provide the center with additional staffing, such as bringing in full-time or adjunct SU faculty members with master's degrees in social work to serve as therapists and efforts to target more local applicants.

Dyer agreed the most pressing goal of the center is to fill the currently vacant positions, which would then allow its staff members to return to their individual responsibilities and

most effective roles.

"Once everyone is in place, you are then maximizing the positions of the people who are already here," Dyer said.

In the interim, outside service referrals will be determined by the student's location and specialist preferences, as well as insurance and financial considerations.

SU is offering to cover up to two copays for outside services, though the offer is only valid if the student has approved insurance and is treated by Atlantic Psychological Practice, a local provider within walking distance of the university.

Nascimbeni said the offer still leaves several critical campus groups uncovered and with few viable options for mental health treatment.

"[SU is] still not really taking care of our students who don't have insurance, and that's a big problem," Nascimbeni said. "Particularly students who come from disadvantaged population groups, those are often the students who need [services] the most, and we're just increasing treatment gaps by not offering these services to our marginalized population groups."

While there are no rigid guidelines to qualify an individual's circumstances as an "emergency," Dyer provided broad examples such as having thoughts of harming oneself or others, surviving physical or sexual assault or showing severe mental health symptoms, like hallucinations or delusions, suggestive of more severe mental health problems.

Dyer said the center is still working with students who do not have insurance and are facing non-emergencies to try to find solutions, such as identifying outside facilities that structure payment based on income level or offer pro bono services, as well as avenues for applying for insurance.

"We're never going to just terminate services [with a student] without some type of plan to pursue," Dyer said. "There is no circumstance that could mean a student could not access the counseling center for crisis resources."

tinually urged all university members to receive their vaccines as soon as made available to them.

"These vaccines are safe and necessary to return to our pre-pandemic way of

life," Wight said.

Wight also reiterated that vaccinated students, faculty and staff will still need to remain in compliance with SU's weekly COVID-19 testing protocols.

SU general education requirements may change by fall 2022

By Georgia Foster / Staff Writer

Salisbury University may soon be getting a general education overhaul.

SU is currently in the process of potentially updating its general education program with a completely new model proposed by the university's general education steering committee.

The new model was first presented to the Faculty Senate for a vote of approval and was subsequently passed. The model will now be sent for an all-faculty vote to determine if the changes will officially be implemented.

The proposed model, which has one fewer course than SU's current general education program's total, still meets all state requirements, while also adjusting certain category areas to correspond more with SU's student learning outcomes.

Dr. Karen Olmstead, SU's provost and senior vice president of academic affairs, said that the altered areas include three categories of courses that are "[signatures] of an SU education" which are not "stand-alone" and may fit into other categories as well. There will also be an "experiential learning component" that students will take as upperclassmen if the proposal passes.

"Those four things, in addition to these distributional requirements, really capture what an SU education should be all about," Olmstead said.

The three "signature" additions are single-course requirements in the areas of civic and community engagement, diversity and inclusion and environ-

mental sustainability.

Olmstead said that incoming freshmen and transfer students alike would be required to complete a "first-year seminar" under the new model.

Olmstead and other proponents for the change believe that the categories proposed will be more compelling to students and allow for coursework that is unique and tailored to each individual.

These courses also have more descriptive titles in comparison to those currently being used, such as "Group 1" and "Group 2."

While the all-faculty vote may be as soon as early April, it will take time for SU to make this shift in curriculum requirements.

Dr. Thomas Cawthern, a faculty member in the university's science department and chair of the general education steering committee, said that if the model is voted to be approved, it would require at least another year before those changes would be implemented into the curriculum. The restructured system would then take effect in the Fall Semester of 2022. Students currently enrolled in the university will be given the options to either continue with the old general education model, switch into the new model or potentially complete a hybrid of both, Cawthern said.

Cawthern said the general education steering committee, comprised of six faculty-elected members and six mem-

SU has maintained a COVID-19 positivity rate below 1% since deploying its weekly coronavirus testing requirement for students, according to the university's COVID-19 dashboard



SU is proceeding with its originally scheduled virtual commencement ceremonies and an in-person grad walk for spring graduates (Image courtesy of WyoFile.)

bers appointed by the provost, has devoted much time and thought into the proposed model for the past three years while he has served as chair. The committee consulted with SU faculty and students to gather opinions during the development process. All parties involved are confident the new model is the best option to engage students in content they are passionate about and to provide them flexibility to discover these passions, Cawthern said.

Cawthern said even faculty members whose work may be disturbed by the alterations only care about the students' learning and want the proposal to be successful.

"We really haven't even thought about, if this is voted down, how we are going to modify the current model," Cawthern said.

If passed, the model's effectiveness will be observed through events such as Gull Week, during which students can voluntarily be assessed on their learning and growth through the general education curriculum.

Salisbury community addresses anti-Asian hate

By Jakob Todd / News Editor

Salisbury University community members gathered in unity April 1 for a vigil dedicated to the recent victims of anti-Asian hate incidents across the country.

The vigil was hosted by the university's Student Government Association in the campus' Wicomico Room of the Guerrieri Student Union and followed by a virtual SU community discussion an hour after the ceremony.

New data revealed a rise to nearly 3,800 acts of anti-Asian hate nationwide over the course of almost a year during the pandemic, according to National Broadcasting Company News. More than 500 of those incidents have taken place in 2021.

Signs were displayed during the vigil with victims' names and the qualities that most represented their lives.

SU freshman Mara League was among the vigil's attendees and said she believes fellow students should be more active in campus discussions on diversity.

"When people include diverse perspectives, it can really improve the overall quality of conversation for everyone," League said.

Senior Chareese Vandyke also attended the campus conversation to contribute to the SU community's handling of inclusion. Vandyke said there are still many strides left for the campus to take to truly embrace these dialogues, however, and encouraged her peers to support future initiatives on diversity and inclusion.

"Presence matters when it comes to [events] like this," Vandyke said. "Dialogue matters, presence matters."



SU's Student Government recently held a vigil dedicated to the victims of anti-Asian hate acts across the country. Featured image courtesy of Jakob Todd.

SU students rally around Camden Community Garden

By Olivia Ballmann / Editor-in-Chief

Salisbury University students and local Salisbury community members rallied around the city's Camden Community Garden April 3. The volunteer event was organized and led by Pastor Martin Hutchison, who is regarded as the "Secretary of Community Gardens" for the City of Salisbury.

Hutchison saw the need for accessible, inexpensive produce in Salisbury. His passion for gardening inspired him to provide nearby neighborhoods with healthy foods through the Camden Community Garden.

"It was a dream and an idea that I had about seven to eight years ago," Hutchison said. "It took about a year to get it off the ground, to get the city to agree to lease us a vacant lot, [which] was filled with dog poop and trash, and ... it was an opportunity to use a gift that I had, that I liked to do [and] to be a blessing in a community."

According to Hutchison, the garden, located across from the soon-to-be-opened Newton Street Community Center, not only serves as an opportunity to provide produce to community members, but it also serves as a safe space for children's programs in the summer.

These summer programs work to provide children in nearby neighborhoods with activities and meals during the summer.

"A lot of these kids in the neighborhood get free or reduced lunch at school, and then, when they're home for the summer, that dries up and it's a challenge, so [the garden] provides that meal, that one meal a day, for these students," Hutchison said.

According to Hutchison, volunteers work on Saturdays to maintain the garden, which can prove to be a tedious task.

Hence, Hutchison enjoyed having SU student volunteers help him and his fellow community members move compost onto the garden beds.

SU honors student Lindsey Ward, a senior, was also happy help and support an important cause: supporting Salisbury community members with fresh produce.

Ward hoped her involvement and volunteerism would inspire other SU students to do the same.

"I wanted to ... do my part, and just come out and help and show people



Students participated in a cleanup to improve one of Salisbury's civic engagement efforts targeted toward community members in need of food and safety (Featured image courtesy of Olivia Ballmann.)

that it's not just about school," Ward said. "It's about the community that you're in as well."

Abbey Murphy, another SU honors student, was also happy to volunteer her time to help the Salisbury community.

As a freshman, Murphy felt this opportunity was especially important, as it strengthened her connection with the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I'm definitely grateful [for] these opportunities — It's really cool to become a part of the community seeing as I'm not from around this area," Murphy said. "[Volunteering] is definitely good, and it gives me a sense of purpose as a student."

In addition to contributing to a worthy cause, Murphy felt interacting with fellow volunteers was the best part of her day.

"Everyone just has such a positive attitude," Murphy said. "Everyone is so welcoming and ready to help, and it's contagious."

Hutchison expects there will be more volunteer opportunities for SU students in the future.

Editorial

Amidst rising racism, is SU safe for Asian students?

By Jacob Beaver /
Editorial Editor

There were 3,800 racist incidents against Asian residents in the United States in 2020, according to National Broadcasting Company News. With violence against minorities continuing this year, it is imperative colleges are tolerant havens for students.

Amidst increasingly volatile incidents, can Salisbury University's Asian population rely on their school for a safe and welcoming educational experience?

Senior and president of SU's Asian and Pacific Islander Club Nhi Nguyen believes our university's community is generally safe. She credits Salisbury's sizeable Asian population, which is the city's third largest minority population of 4.3 percent according to the United States Census Bureau.

It should be noted that Nhi's experience is not representative of all Asian students at SU. Any student experiencing discriminatory hate crimes should reach out to emergency services and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Nhi's organization has not experienced any major incidents of discrimination in its dealings with school or student leadership. However, she feels the public image of her club's mission and purpose has been limited to only covering Southeast Asia.

SU could do more to recognize the various and diverse cultures from the Asian continent. Unfortunately, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is May. This is a time when students are distracted by finals or graduation.

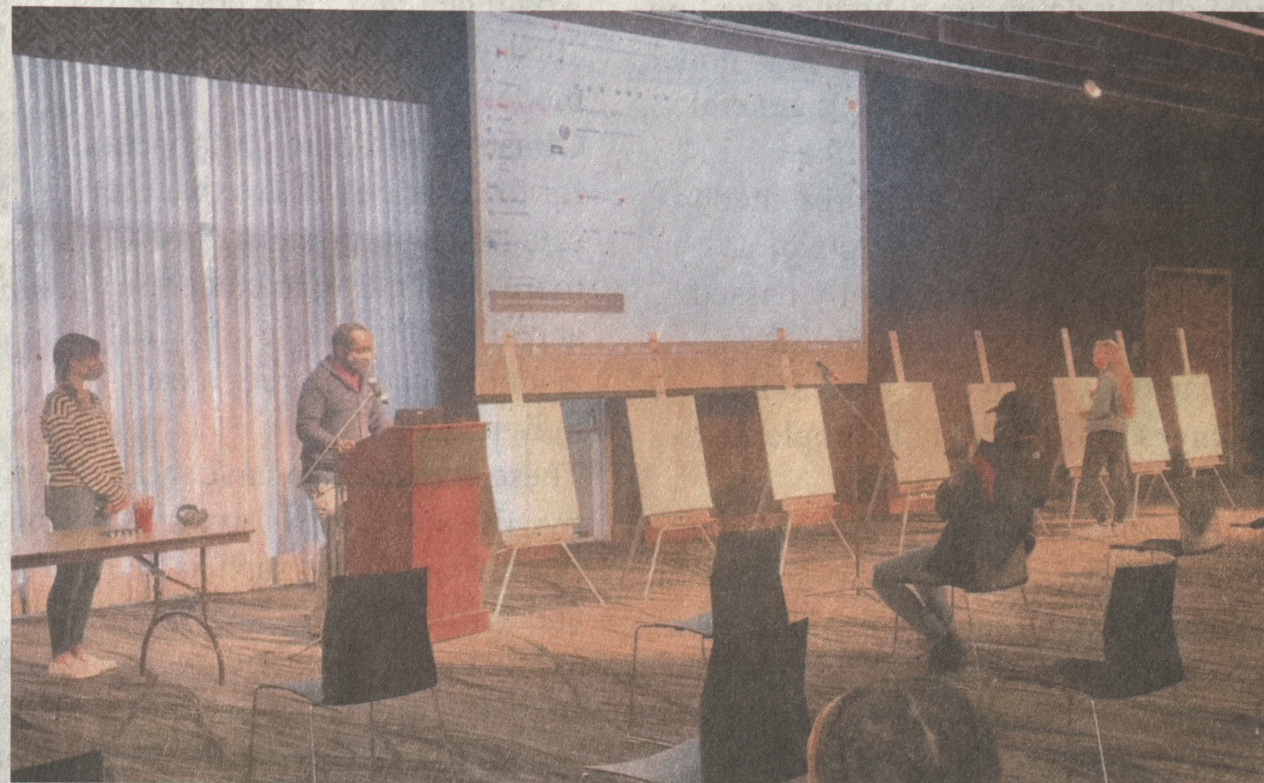
While only representative of Eastern Asian cultures, Lunar New Year occurs between January and February each year. This holiday could be accompanied by festivities and events to kick off spring semesters with diverse learning opportunities for students.

The Asian and Pacific Islander Club will be reconvening for the Fall 2021 Semester after suspending meetings since the Spring 2020 Semester due to COVID-19. Anyone who wishes to reach out to the organization can do so by direct messaging on Instagram via @su_apic.

The university should expand its support of organizations that educate students about Asian cultures and review its diversity resources available for students.

Nhi feels that "while Asian cultures at SU are not excluded, they are not totally included." Violent waves of hatred elsewhere in the US have not reached our campus. However, the key to keeping the peace is continual education and awareness of diverse cultures.

The university should expand its support and coordination with organizations such as the Asian and Pacific Islander Club and review its own diversity resources related to Asian cultures.



Salisbury University's Student Government Association held a vigil dedicated to the victims of recent anti-Asian hate incidents nationwide on Thursday, April 1. Image courtesy of Jakob Todd.

What happens when you miss your weekly COVID-19 test?

By Haylee Olley / Staff Writer

On March 1, Salisbury University began administering weekly COVID-19 tests to students while staff were required to be tested twice a month. With the new protocol comes consequences for those who miss a test.

Salisbury University Campus Health announced that students residing on campus who miss more than three tests may be suspended from housing. What happens to students who live off campus and staff members who miss more than three tests?

Megan Gresham, an SU Campus Health nurse practitioner says that "students, faculty and

staff who fall out of compliance with their testing requirements lose access to SU facilities through an automated process. For students, this means they cannot attend in-person classes. Access is restored once the student or employee is tested negative and results are received."

SU is not alone in enforcing strict weekly COVID-19 testing policies. At the University of Hartford, "students who do not show up for testing will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. [Possible] sanctions may include loss of housing."

Other colleges have leaned into harsh and unproductive methods of disciplining those who do not appear for their tests. Baylor University students who miss two tests will not "be able to participate in any co-curricular activities for the rest of the semester. If they miss three tests, [they will] also lose Wi-Fi access on campus," according to The Texas Tribune.

There is no mentioning of circumstantial excuses for students who accidentally miss tests due to an emergency or work. I understand the importance of keeping a university community safe, but life is unpredictable.

I hope SU steers clear of disciplinary policies found at Baylor University.

While a great deal of Salisbury's professors teaches online, there are still those who teach in-person each week. Staff on campus who teach to students in classrooms should be tested as frequently as we are.

I believe in rapid testing for students, faculty and staff. However, if a student misses more than three COVID-19 tests, they should not automatically lose their housing.

Offering chances to reschedule and communicating with students could keep SU safe without removing people from their place of residence.



Image courtesy of Brad Boardman.

The rough road to graduation during COVID-19



Image courtesy of Brendan Link.

By Jacob Beaver /
Editorial Editor

Graduation before the COVID-19 pandemic was a generally positive experience.

Some treated it as a sweet release from burdensome class workloads. Others celebrated their academic accomplishments with family and friends. Fun events with other students were held by Salisbury University in the days leading up to the big day.

COVID-19 has changed some things.

The class of 2020 dealt with the shock of the world coming to a near standstill. This year's graduates face a career market transformed by the pandemic. Salisbury University was reopened under COVID-19 guidelines, allowing seniors to experience a degree of normalcy. What is it like to be on the verge of graduation at SU in 2021?

Senior Tim Gordon feels like the pandemic altered his university experience. He "seriously contemplated waiting to finish classes until COVID-19 cleared up."

SU made many efforts through the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 Semesters to create a thriving college experience in keeping with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Maryland Department of Health.

Tim's academic experience and challenges are similar to many other students. He felt that "some of the professors just gave up and did not get as creative with assignments." One of

his instructors hardly showed enthusiasm by "[teaching] a two-hour long class with palms rested on cheeks."

Salisbury University has managed to pull through nearly two semesters without a major COVID-19 outbreak. This is an admirable feat, but it is not what students will carry on with them after graduation.

A student's memory of his or her academic journey is likely to be comprised of staff and faculty who took the extra mile to make a real connection during the pandemic. Rapid COVID-19 testing is newsworthy but not noteworthy to a student's personal legacy.

Tim also shared with me his difficulties with the graduation application process during the Spring 2021 Semester. He "reached out to [his] advisor at least two [or] three times to make sure [he] was on the right track to graduate." Conversations pointed towards an automatic registration due to Tim taking his last set of classes. Luckily, false reassurance was interrupted when he was asked by a fellow student if he had applied for graduation. He had not, and soon realized the deadline to do so had passed.

To his surprise, Tim was told he was short a few classes by the registrar's office. The situation was eventually cleared up. He will be graduating this semester, but it has caused a great deal of confusion and required immense hard work.

Classes were missed and time for assignments were wasted to make up for a lack of communication between staff regarding Tim's academic requirements.

SU's academic advisors are to be "partners in [students'] academic success," according to the school's website.

Shortcomings are to be expected because people are not perfect. However, Tim should not have been on the verge of taking an extra semester of classes due to an uncoordinated advising center.

COVID-19 has made it difficult for everyone in higher education. There are plenty of students who make little effort to connect with their professors.

Tim's situation was the difference between starting his career and trading it for another semester of spent financial resources. I hope it is an isolated incident, but I fear it is not.

For students to graduate during COVID-19, they need the proper information and communication to do so. The biggest senior stressors should come from dealing with virtual class quirks, not conflicting information about their eligibility to conclude their academic journeys. The road to graduation for students during this pandemic has been rough. Hopefully, the class of 2022's graduation will be clear of obstacles the class of 2021 dealt with.

**Want to write for
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Gull Life

SafeRide on track to host annual JDL Memorial 5K

By Stephanie Rivera /
Gull Life Editor

If you have participated in SafeRide's annual JDL Memorial 5k, you could be wondering how COVID-19 has affected its operation. The members of SafeRide will be holding the run, but with modifications to ensure participants' safety.

Every spring, SafeRide honors the late SafeRide Employee, Jerry Daniel Landsman 5K.

"Jerry Daniel Landsman was the former president of SafeRide, who passed away unexpectedly. We put this memorial 5K on for his family and friends. [The 5K] helps keep his memory alive," said Co-Chair of Operations and Finance, Gabriela Torres.

The race is open to all students and the public at no cost, and each registered participant will have the chance to win a variety of raffle prizes on April 18. A variety of refreshments will be offered, each individually packaged to avoid cross-contamination.

The run will start at the Henson building, each participant starting at staggered times. Separated by 10-minute intervals, the organization ensures that participants will be at a safe social distance.

Despite the alterations, SafeRide is working to ensure that the 5K will be similar to years past. The organization is holding a raffle. Participants will have a shot at winning one of their themed baskets. Each runner will receive 10 to 15 tickets for the raffle at no additional cost.

"We will have a raffle where people can put in tickets to win some of the baskets we're raffling off ... we will have a First Aid basket, coffee lovers, chocolate lovers and a fishing basket in memory [of Landsman,]" Torres commented.



Image courtesy of Center for Student Involvement and Leadership's.

"It is going to be a regular JDL 5K. We will be having our raffle ... We will hear a few words from the [Landsman] family and from us at SafeRide, as we move forward," ensured Torres.

Torres wanted to ensure the student body that SafeRide is working hard to resume regular operation by the Fall 2021 Semester.

"We're doing our best to try and make sure that it is a possibility for us to operate in the fall. We are doing a lot of behind-the-scenes work as a [student] board with our supervisors to try and make it happen. We know people love SafeRide, so we're not only fighting for our employees to get back to working, but we're fighting for you guys, [the student body,] to get home safely," Torres ensured.

Executive Board Member, Maria Jenkins feels social media will positively contribute to SafeRides' organization.

"Follow our social media to hear all about our announcements ... [their media pages] will have how we will be operating in the fall. It will detail the ways in which we can offer our various services to the student body," Jenkins said.

Help SafeRide honor the legacy of the late Jerry Daniel Landsman by signing up for the JDL Memorial 5K. Follow their Instagram @susaferide and their Twitter @SUSaferide for more details on the upcoming events.

SU organizations struggle to recruit during pandemic

By Olivia Ballmann /
Editor-in-Chief

Salisbury University clubs and organizations were hit hard during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over a year later, clubs and organizations are still struggling to adapt.

President of Student United Way, Johannah Copper, believes organizations' low turnout and recruitment struggles are a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Copper noticed a 50 percent decrease in her organization's participants in comparison with past semesters.

"In a normal semester, I would say, by now we would have some people that would have reached out and signed up and committed to those dates [volunteer dates,] and we haven't seen any of that [participant commitment] so far."

Cooper also felt the pandemic has interfered with her organization's top priority — fundraising.

Fundraising is an essential part of Student United Way as the organization strives to help lower eastern shore residents with financial stability.

"From the club's standpoint, it's been really difficult to coordinate and recruit volunteers for these [fundraising] events with all the regulations from a public health standpoint, but also from the university. We've been really struggling to find projects that are keeping everyone safe and still being worth our time."

Cooper acknowledges the limitations of COVID on her organization and other students. One of these limitations being Zoom's inability to provide similar experiences prior to the pandemic.

"As far as participation, I think everybody is just so busy and trying to adapt and do the best



SU United Way students volunteering (photo provided by Johannah Cooper)

they can. It's kind of hard to ... be upset when people just can't take on one more thing," Cooper said.

Like Cooper, President of Comedy Gulls, Peter Schloff has noticed significant decreases in member attendance because of the pandemic as well.

Comedy Gulls has lost more than half its members during the pandemic according to Schloff. "[Because of] this semester [not having] an activities fair, it's been nearly impossible for us to reach out to any new incoming students or students that didn't go to the in-person or Zoom activities fair [last semester]," said Schloff.

"It's been real difficult to find new members ... It has been a pretty significant challenge for us to overcome, especially as a small group when

we don't really have the ability to advertise..." Schloff felt his now virtual club, which focuses on improv skills and performances, just isn't the same.

Schloff believed an in-person setting was important for his club's members to get the most out of their experience.

"The whole point of our club is to work on public speaking skills ... to make people more comfortable thinking on the spot and expressing themselves on the spot and working in teamwork, and without having that audience to give you feedback, and having your ... stage to perform, it feels almost hollow ... You're up on stage, but you don't have the real sort of boost you would get from being in person."

Student Government Association Director for Diversity and Inclusion, and Secretary of Outreach for SU Model United Nations, Dorien Rogers, felt the biggest challenges for organizations are member recruitment and retention.

Roger's concerns were not limited to the current effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

His concerns also focused on the potential impact of low recruitment on the future and legacies of student organizations.

"I know, last semester, when I was speaking to a lot of the clubs and organizations, they were talking about ... 'how can we ensure that the next generation of students — that are taking part in clubs or organizations — are going to keep the organization going?' Because if they have no new recruitments, that could lead organizations not being able to come back..."

Although the future of clubs, organizations and COVID is uncertain, the thoughts of current clubs and organizations seem to be clear — this isn't working.

GSU cares, the easiest way to help SU's campus

By Stephanie Rivera /
Gull Life Editor

If you are a racial minority student majoring in Psychology at Salisbury University, you have the opportunity to join the Accelerated Mentoring Program. Students entering their sophomore or junior academic year, who are planning to attend a graduate psychology program, can partake in this professional development program.

The AMP program is a unique integration of a mentored community-based participatory action research experience. It provides opportunities to connect with racial minority professional mentors who help participants advance in psychology.

Psychologist's affiliated with the program conduct research in a variety of areas, allowing students to gain a broad understanding of the tenants of psychology.

"This program helps prepare us for graduate school and life after college by helping me build my resume. Within AMP, I have already had help applying to two graduate schools supported by a variety of letters of recommendation[s]," AMP Student Jakquan Jackson said. AMP students can cultivate critical skills, such as developing a professional e-portfolio. This experience is also integrated with outreach programs to assist youth by mentoring middle and high school students in Salisbury schools.

"Within (AMP), we are mentoring the youth, and doing research projects with the assistance of receiving mentoring by psychologists of color ... We are focusing the research on various social problems facing racial minorities,"

Acting Mayor, Julia Glanz, discusses gender inequality in leadership

By Stephanie Rivera / Gull Life Editor

Guerrieri Student Union and Multicultural Student Services hosted a Fireside Spotlight with Julia Glanz. As Acting Mayor of the City of Salisbury, Glanz discussed the struggles she faces as a woman in leadership.

Glanz is a Salisbury alumnus; her aspirations to work in the bureaucracy began after joining Salisbury University's Student Government Association.

"I never thought then [during her undergrad] that I would be where I am today ... it was a big jump, and it all happened very fast," Glanz said.

At only 25, Glanz was hired by the City of Salisbury to serve as the assistant city administrator; two years later, she was promoted and appointed to the role of city administrator. Not only is she the youngest appointed administrator, but she is the first openly LGBTQ+ woman to be assigned the position in the city government. "Only about two weeks into this role, I learned that you will not be able to please everybody," Glanz said, regarding her new position.

As acting mayor, Glanz has altered city functions to ensure Salisbury's citizens are protected from COVID-19 transmission while having the proper resources to access COVID-19 vaccinations. To ease the transition, Glanz created the Vulnerable Populations Task Force. Around 200 city leaders came together to focus on the issues surrounding housing insecurity, food insecurity, access to information and language barriers.

"[The task force] is to assist vulnerable populations of non-native English-speaking persons, minorities, disabled, low-income, seniors and the homeless ... we want to break down systematic barriers and make real changes in our community," Glanz said.

Glanz is taking strides to ensure needs can be met during this time of economic insecurity.

Kara Hart, WWDT TV reporter and SU Alumni, joined the discussion with Glanz.

"We saw a spotlight on them [vulnerable populations] during the pandemic. [By observation] I have seen that there is not only a need for vaccines and [COVID-19] testing. There is a money issue here, and the rise of job inequity," Hart said.

Although these issues are on the rise, Glanz feels that Salisbury is in a better position when compared to previous years. Before relieving her position as mayor, Glanz hopes to continually assist vulnerable persons of Salisbury to ensure they can access COVID-19 resources.

"We have got a couple of our projects moving, kept all of our staff safe and healthy and kept the ball rolling ... our customer service is still top notch, while continuing to look out for the little guy," Glanz said.

Gender inequity is still an issue in Maryland. Women typically make \$0.86 for every dollar paid to men. In addition to wage differences, women in positions of power have been historically debased and doubted. Glanz is no stranger to this occurrence and encourages women to live truthfully and break down barriers of gender inequity.

To be a successful woman in leadership, Glanz relies on, "reflective listening ... we're now in a world where you need to lean on empathy and that may come more naturally to women."

Glanz encourages women to go after anything they desire in life.

"Go after whatever you want to go after. Do not let anybody tell you no, do not let anybody scare you away ... do what you can to go after your dreams," Glanz said.

In closing of Women's History Month, we must remember to take active measures to ensure gender is not a determinant of an individual's worth.



Image courtesy of SU@GSU

Romana Harden said.

AMP participants mentor students to provide an environment where youths can develop their career and educational goals. They discuss a range of social issues, including minority incarnation rates, effects of racial discrimination, environmental degradation and more. Participants learn necessary research skills and acquire field experience allowing Salisbury graduates to enter a variety of competitive psychology graduate school programs.

"AMP helps students identify and focus on the field of psychology [they] want to focus their graduate studies within ... Psychology contains a variety of disciplines, and it's great to be able to associate with mentors from a variety of fields, especially psychologists who are racial minorities themselves," Jackson said.

Students in AMP are privy to various opportunities, and students create academic presentations displayed in professional conferences.

"This program helped me realize that through AMP, I have so many options. Throughout [AMP] I have time to figure out what I want to do, the decisions I need to make towards getting there. Dr. Okubo and Dr. Schlehofer were so helpful and supportive throughout every step," Harden said. If you are interested in joining the AMP program, act fast, as space is limited to solely ten students. For more information or general questions, email Dr. Okubo (yxokubo@salisbury.edu) and Dr. Schlehofer (mmschlehofer@salisbury.edu).



Image courtesy of <https://salisbury.md/mayors-office>

Sports

'Irreplaceable': Lamboni reflects on his time as a Sea Gull

By Tommy West / Staff Writer

A staple of Salisbury University athletics is calling it a career. Long-time head athletic trainer Pat Lamboni will step down at the conclusion of the 2020-21 athletic season.

Lamboni dedicated nearly 40 years to the growth of Salisbury University's athletic training program.

His journey at SU (then-Salisbury State College) began in 1976, when he transferred in from Essex Community College.

Lamboni was a student athletic trainer and a member of the baseball team at Salisbury prior to earning his bachelor's degree in 1978.

During Lamboni's tenure, Salisbury University has won 20 team national championships and 24 individual national championships.

Dr. Gerry DiBartolo, SU's Director of Athletics and Campus Recreation, says without Lamboni, SU athletics would not be where they are today.

"The unsung heroes of SU athletics have always been the athletic trainers," DiBartolo said. "And Pat has been the leader of that incredible group. He is a quality individual, he is always true to his word and you can tell he loves this institution. He has always put the care and well-being of our student-athletes above all else."

Sean Carroll, a senior on the Salisbury University football team, says the team appreciates everything Lamboni has done for the program.

"We can just tell that he really cares," Carroll said. "We see all of the time he puts in. He is out there for every practice and every game. We will miss having his presence out there with us ... He always tried to make us not only better players, but better people."

Head field hockey coach and Associate Athletic Director Dawn Chamberlin called Lamboni irreplaceable.

"He's a legend. Not only here at Salisbury, but

in the entire field of athletic training," Chamberlin said. "What he's done for our student-athletes here, and for our athletic trainers who have gone through our undergraduate and graduate programs here, is just beyond parallel."

2 of Lamboni's daughters, Katy and Stacey Lamboni, played field hockey at Salisbury under Chamberlin.

Katy was a member of the '09 National Championship team at SU. Chamberlin said Lamboni's reaction to his daughter winning a national championship was her favorite memory with him.

"The joy on his face really said it all," Chamberlin said. "I could tell just how much it meant to him."

Hunter Smith, who started the athletic training program here at Salisbury back in the 70's, has served as one of Lamboni's biggest mentors.

"He's my inspiration to be the best athletic trainer and person that I can be," Lamboni said. "He was the closest thing to a father figure for me and I am forever indebted to him."

Lamboni said one of the key factors in his decision was the added time to spend with his friends and family.

"I love this place and I have loved coming to work every day," Lamboni said. "But I've missed out on a lot. I'm ready to live life on Lamboni family time, instead of Salisbury University time."

Lamboni is proud of his tenure here at Salisbury, and especially proud of the athletic training program. He has watched students grow since he first stepped foot on campus.

Under Lamboni's oversight, SU developed well-established undergraduate and graduate



Image courtesy of SU Sports Information.

programs in athletic training.

"One thing that we have always enjoyed was seeing our graduates go on to do great things," Lamboni said. "Every time one of them got a new job, we would sit back and think 'that's pretty cool that we had something to do with that.'"

Lamboni was named to the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers Association's Hall of Fame in 2014. He was also named Division III Head Athletic Trainer of the year by the National Athletic Trainers Association in 2010.

Lamboni leaves behind a legacy of hard work and dedication. He also leaves some big shoes to fill: shoes Lamboni hopes someone can step into.

"I feel like I've built a nice house here," Lamboni said. "I just hope someone comes along and expands on it."

2 men's lacrosse attackmen climbing all-time

Salisbury rankings:

Cross Ferrara

By Nick Lewis / Sports Editor

The Salisbury men's lacrosse team appeared destined for great things in its 2020 campaign.

Off to a blistering 7-0 start and three wins coming against ranked opponents, the Sea Gulls were flying high.

The attack, headlined by Josh Melton and Cross Ferrara, provided the Sea Gulls with just over 19 goals-per-game. The defense allowed just over 6 tallies in each contest. Then it ended.

The 2020 season was cancelled due to the rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was season that seemed on track for a deep run into the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament was gone.

The Sea Gulls picked up where they left off over a year later. Salisbury holds an 8-1 record and sits second in the national rankings.

Ferrara also picked up where he left off last March. Ferrara led the team with 26 G and slotted only behind Melton with 32 points in 2020. He remained the most potent attacker for the maroon and gold this year, notching 48 goals in 9 contests thus far.

Ferrara said despite not getting their full season last year, having most of the senior class return with extra eligibility granted by the NCAA has helped them remain a top team in Division III lacrosse.

"When the season was cancelled, it was devastating to everybody, especially the seniors," Ferrara said. "We're so tight that more than half of the class came back for another year ... that just goes to show how much we love Salisbury lacrosse."

Seven of the 12 seniors returned for another round in 2021, with a couple transitioning to graduate students as well.



Cross Ferrara backs down a Christopher Newport defender. (Image courtesy of Sports Information)

Attackmen Cross Ferrara continued... From page 8

This means the likes of Brett Malamphy, Kevin Murphy, Melton and others returned to help bolster the 2021 squad. Ferrara said this was crucial in the team getting off to a quick start this season.

"The sky is the limit," Ferrara said. "With the NCAA granting us all another year of eligibility ... we didn't have to rebuild, just refocused on where we left off last year."

In Salisbury's 25-12 victory over Christopher Newport, Ferrara scored four goals. He also vaulted into the top 10 in program history in career goals, surpassing 2012 graduate Erik Krum.

While he said he is proud of the accomplishment, Ferrara said the credit goes to his peers for putting him in the position to be successful.

"It's an honor to be on that list with some of the greats that have ever played here," Ferrara said. "Without my teammates around me doing the work as well, none of it would have been possible."

Josh Melton

By Luke Metrisko / Staff Writer

Senior attacker Josh Melton has had a big impact on the Salisbury men's lacrosse program.

During his time with the team so far, Melton has recorded 304 points, making him tied for third all-time in school history. Melton is one of just five players to ever record 300 points in their Salisbury career, reaching the mark on

against Christopher Newport University on April 3.

Melton also ranks third in program history with 156 career assists and is tied for eleventh with 148 career goals. He was named to the All-American First Team in 2019 and played in Salisbury's last National Championship win in 2017.

Melton said he never expected to find such high levels of success with the Sea Gulls, but he has not done it alone.

"I never thought that I would end up in the place where I was scoring 300 points," Melton said. "It was a great honor, but I know I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for my teammates."

Melton is from Centennial, Colorado. Lacrosse has grown in the state of Colorado at a rapid rate over the past two decades.

Growing up, he was part of a large group of kids who played lacrosse in his area. His father also played which helped Melton get invested in the game.

"My dad played in high school and wanted to get me involved with it," Melton said. "Ever since then, I fell in love with it and knew I wanted to play going forward."

After graduating from Grandview High School, Melton made the decision to travel almost 1,800 miles to attend Salisbury University.

Melton said he was influenced to come to SU by the winning environment that comes from playing for the all-time winningest coach in all divisions of NCAA lacrosse, Jim Berkman.

"You come here to win," Melton said. "This team has a fighting chance to win a national championship every year."

Ferrara said after graduating from Appoquinimink, he wanted to play for a strong lacrosse program. He did not want to relocate to a big city to do so.

That helped him land at Salisbury University.

"I'm not really a city boy, I prefer the country," Ferrara said. "And Coach Berkman has a legacy of winning. Competing for a National Championship every year, there's not much more you could ask for out of a program."

For those who do not arrive to SU men's lacrosse games early, the team has a pregame ritual of walking onto the field to the "Imperial March" music from Star Wars. Once on the field, the team jogs on, tosses their sticks to the sideline and "Jump Around" to the hit song from House of Pain.

Ferrara has his own routine, and it involves chocolate.

"I always eat a Hershey's Cookies and Cream candy bar," Ferrara said.

One thing that was not routine was a loss to open the 2021 season. Salisbury lost the season opener on the road against Lynchburg, 10-8.

The Sea Gulls were missing some important players in the game, which did not help their chances against a solid Hornets team.

Still, it is far from typical for the team to drop the opening game of the season.

The next game, the maroon and gold got back on track. Salisbury hit their stride against Southern Virginia University, grabbing a 30-10 victory.

Ferrara, who scored a career-high 11 goals in the winning effort, said that win was his favorite moment of the season thus far.

"Waiting seven days to have another game to come back and get a 'W,' that was just eating at me," Ferrara said. "Getting back on the field again after that and getting the win felt really good."



Josh Melton handles the ball during Salisbury's matchup with Cabrini. (Image courtesy of Brad Boardman)

Melton also credits his success to the upperclassmen from his freshman year. The teammates that Melton has had over the years, he said, helped him form into the player he is today.

"Watching the guys ahead of me, seeing how hard they work and how serious they take the game, it helped me a lot," Melton said.

Melton said he loves the great outdoors. Being from Colorado, Melton enjoys skiing and fishing in his free time.

He enjoys spending time and competing with his friends, as one of his favorite things to do is play Mario Kart with his roommates.

Melton said before Major League Lacrosse merged with the Premier Lacrosse League, the Denver Outlaws showed interest in him.

Whether he gets the call to suit up at the next level or not, Melton said he wants to keep lacrosse a part of his life.

"If I get the opportunity to play professionally, I'll do

it," Melton said. "But if it doesn't work out, I want to be able to give back to the game in any way that I can."

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Continued on page 9

Pair of sisters becoming lockdown duo for Salisbury Women's Lacrosse

By Tommy West / Staff Writer

Siblinghood is all about competition. Such is the case for Carrie and Elizabeth Hesen, sisters who also serve as a pair of dynamic defenders for the Salisbury University women's lacrosse team.

The duo from Glenelg High School has combined to win four Coast-to-Coast Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Week awards. Carrie, a senior, has earned three this season, while her younger sister received the award for the first time in her career on April 5.

For older sister Carrie, seeing Elizabeth win the honor as a freshman was like a weight off her shoulders.

"When she won the award, I was so proud. It was a big relief to see her step up and step in," Carrie said. "She filled some pretty big shoes from the year before, and really showed that she can do this thing on her own."

The awards being racked up by the sisters may have spurred some newfound competition. This, of course, is nothing new to these two.

"We definitely have some competition, but it's good competition," Carrie said. "We are always pushing each other, trying to one-up the other. It's always been that way for us."

For Elizabeth, her older sister being a Sea Gull did not make her commitment a no-brainer.

When it came time to make her college decision, Elizabeth was hesitant to follow in her sister's footsteps.

"At first, I wanted to make sure that I made a name for myself and wasn't in her shadow. I was thinking about doing my own thing," Elizabeth said. "But then I changed my mind and decided to come to Salisbury, and I'm really glad I did."



Carrie and Elizabeth Hesen. (Image courtesy of Sports Information)

Despite growing up together and attending the same high school, the Hesen sisters had never lined up together on the same team until this season.

That was the sweetest part for Carrie, when

she found out that her younger sister would be joining her.

"When she decided to come to Salisbury, I was so excited," Carrie said. "We never got the chance to play on the same team in high school, since I was at the varsity level and she was with [junior varsity.] So, I was really looking forward to the opportunity to play with her."

Despite her hesitance to follow her sister to college, Elizabeth now appreciates her sister's presence.

Especially during a freshman year spent battling a pandemic, Elizabeth said having Carrie by her side has been invaluable.

"She's really been a great leader and role model for me," Elizabeth said.

"It's been awesome having her here to guide me along."

As fun as it is for the Hesen sisters to finally be playing alongside one another, it may be even more enjoyable for the man calling the shots on the sideline.

Head women's lacrosse coach Jim Nestor said having the pair on the backline has been unique.

"It's been a special experience,"

Nestor said. "With the level they are playing at, it's been fun to watch as a coach."

Nestor shared Carrie's enthusiasm when Elizabeth decided to be a Sea Gull.

"I was thrilled when

Elizabeth decided to commit here," Nestor said. "With the success we've had, I think the university really sold itself to her."

Now, the duo has their sights set on what they came to Salisbury for in the first place, a national championship.

Team unity lifting Salisbury Softball to new heights continued... from page 10

Sophomore pitcher Savannah Sheats said this goes beyond the skill they have around the diamond and helped push them to the results they desire. "I think that we have a lot of talent on the team, and we've been working on working together to win the games and work as one unit," Sheats said. "We've really been stressing unity on the team and working together."

Mace is one of the top contributors to Salisbury's offense this season, achieving career highs with her team-leading six home runs and .431 batting average. She also leads the team in slugging, stealing bases and is tied for the team lead in doubles.

Mace credits this season's success to working on what she was struggling with in prior seasons.

"I think that has really helped me this year hitting wise and finding ways to get on base and finding ways to make good contact with the ball," Mace said. "It's not about hitting home runs and it's not about having the best slugging percentage, but just showing up for my team and getting on base anyway I can."

Graduate student Kaleigh Edwards leads the team in hits and runs batted in and hit four of Salisbury's 13 bombs this year.

Sheats is a leader in Salisbury's young bullpen, leading the team in innings pitched, strikeouts and earned-run average. She is also tied with fellow sophomore pitcher Lindsey Windsor with a team leading five wins and one home run allowed so far on the season.

Sheats said she is never happy with her current level, always looking ahead to something greater.

"Something we really talk about is not being content and wanting more for yourself and for your team, so it pushes everyone to do better," Sheats said. "I'm not content with what I'm doing so I want to push myself to do better, and the whole team does, and I think that unifies us and makes us want to perform at the next level."

As the Gulls look ahead and prepare for their upcoming games, Lord said she reminded her players of one crucial thing: to always show your love and dedication to the game, regardless of the outcomes.

"Whether we are on a two-game win streak or a 12-game win streak, you still have to get after it every day like it's a new game and I think that's part of respecting the game," Lord said. "The game doesn't know who is going to win so when you walk into it, you have to play your best every single time."

Men's Soccer future bright as Buete steps in

By Jack Fiechtner / Staff Writer



Head coach Scott Buete on the sideline earlier this season. (Image courtesy of Sports Information)

Salisbury University announced that Scott Buete would be hired to lead the men's soccer program on Feb. 15, 2021. The players said they are excited to have the new coach leading the team.

Buete has quite the track record as a professional player and assistant coach.

On the field, Buete starred on the defensive side of the pitch. He was a three-year captain for the Terrapins and helped lead them to two College Cup appearances.

As an assistant coach at University of Maryland for seven seasons, he had 77 wins, six National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament appearances, two Big Ten Regular Seasons Championships in 2014 and 2016 and three Big Ten Tournament Championships in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Senior Beau Johnson said he believes the new head coach has more than proven himself as a capable player and teacher of the sport.

"The way he competes, and his drive, are inspirational," Johnson said. "Everything he does is to win, and it has rubbed off on the team in a good way."

While the announcement came in February, Buete began his coaching career at Salisbury on March 17. The players expressed that the transition of head coaches has gone quite smoothly, despite the issues caused by COVID-19.

The delayed start was the biggest challenge for this semester according to the players.

Other teams have had several games under their belt for this semester, but despite the delayed start, soccer players at SU still have a positive mind-

Team unity lifting Salisbury Softball to new heights

By Brandon Stark / Staff Writer



Members of the softball team get each other hyped up on gameday. (Image courtesy of Sports Information)

The fifth-ranked Salisbury softball team is currently riding a 12-game win streak after a 2-4 start to the season. The Sea Gulls most recent wins came in a double-header, run-rule sweep of Division II program Bowie State University.

Salisbury opened the 2021 season with two road matchups against top-five teams Christopher Newport and Virginia Wesleyan. The Sea Gulls split their first series of the year against their Coast-to-Coast Athletic Conference rival CNU and took one out of three matchups against the Marlins. Sophomore outfielder Abby Mace said the early season victories over CNU and Virginia Wesleyan gave the team a confidence boost and got them where they wanted to go this season.

"We learned a lot from those games, and we didn't really play our best at those games," Mace said. "I think moving forward, there isn't a team that we can't beat if we're playing 100 percent and we're playing at our level."

Head softball coach Lacey Lord agrees.

Lord said the early games against quality competition helped the team get their feet under them moving forward in the season.

"Once those games were complete, we really hit the field hard and got after the weaknesses we had seen in those games and made it a point to improve on the little things that we needed to do moving forward," Lord said.

Team unity was one of the most important qualities during Lord's first season.

Men's Soccer future bright as Buete steps in continued... from page 11

set.

Senior Peter Gutoskey said even some of the teams they have played this year have already had a significant head start on them. "[Our] first game against St. Mary's was their sixth or seventh game," Gutoskey said. "We have a little bit of catching up to do but doing the best with what we got and already these past couple of weeks have been good."

The players in the men's soccer program are excited for the future of the team and its growing success.

Junior Cullen Myers said he looks forward to seeing what the future holds under the new leader and the team's new identity.

"We are very excited that he is here at Salisbury University, he can do a lot for this program and I am looking forward to where he takes us," Myers said.

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